DECLASSIFIED IN PART
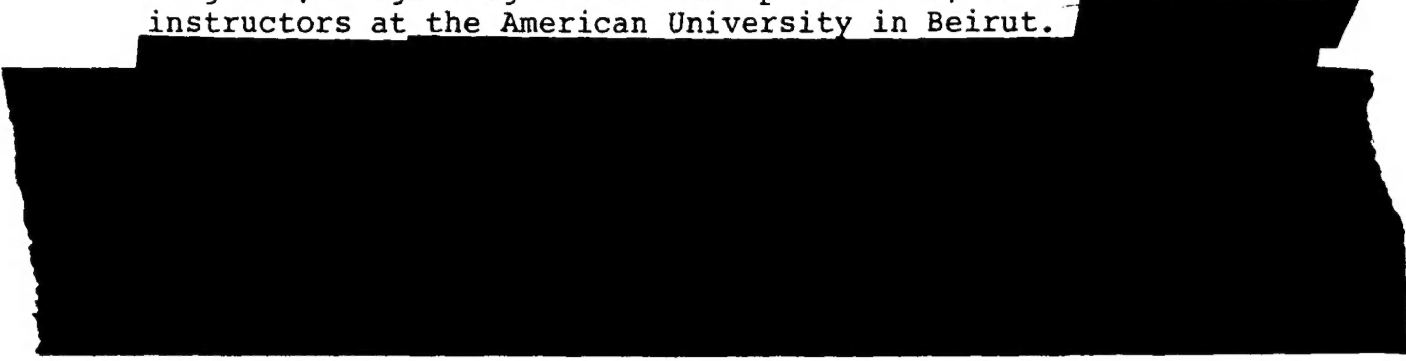
NLRR M02-018 #31

BY CW NARA DATE 6/29/07

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

B1

Libya
sensitive

Next Steps to Deter Further Libyan Terrorism

Qadhafi's vulnerability to a coup has never been greater. He is terrified, confused and unsure of how to stabilize this situation. Despite this, he continues to plan terrorist attacks against Americans and others. Our action has catalyzed elements of the Libyan military to act against him. But their ability to succeed depends largely on fast action. Time is a wasting asset and the U.S. must decide immediately whether and how to act in a manner that will energize rebellious elements while preempting additional terrorist attacks.

Terrorist Planning

Since the U.S. attack on Libyan terrorist sites on Monday, April 15, there have been several additional attacks and events which can be directly attributed to Libyan sponsorship:

--   On Tuesday, April 16, a U.S. Embassy communicator, Thomas Calkins, was shot in the head while returning to his residence from our Embassy in Khartoum.

--   Last night, an Irishman (Michael Keenan) and two British kidnap victims, all previously seized in Beirut, were found murdered and Islamic Jihad Organization has claimed responsibility. The Irishman, like the two British subjects, Leigh Douglas and Philip Hatfield, were instructors at the American University in Beirut.

Qadhafi's Location

Qadhafi has most likely departed Tripoli for Sebha, in Central Libya.

TOP SECRET
Declassify on: OADR

TOP SECRET

At present, there are two SA-2 and two SA-3 sites outside the
city. A battery of ZSU-23/4 anti-aircraft machine guns are
normally in the area, but usually not deployed. There are 16
MIG-25 aircraft ███████on the field, along with several 707s,
727s, and an IL-76 which are normally associated with his
movements. If Qadhafi has indeed relocated to this area, it is
likely that he will also have deployed with him an SA-8 battery.

Qadhafi is undoubtedly making every effort to sustain a continued
campaign of terrorism against the U.S. and now the British.
While his ability to direct such efforts has been somewhat
limited by the strikes Monday night, it is likely that his
capabilities will improve markedly in the next several days as he
reestablishes his communications and relocates his command and
control structure. Qadhafi's appearance last night on Libyan
television will likely result in a reduction of dissident
activity and he will probably move quickly to reestablish
internal control unless he is further threatened.

Internal Situation in Libya

There are a variety of developments taking place within Libya
which may lead to the downfall of Qadhafi. The rebellion of the
Libyan army battalion at Tarhuna, south of Tripoli, and the
subsequent civil strife that was evidenced throughout the Tripoli
area in the late night of April 16 and early morning of April 17
presents an opportunity that we can exploit. ██████████████
██████████████████████████████████ American bombing created a vacuum in
the political leadership that disgruntled army officers are
seeking to exploit to overthrow the regime. There are similar
reports of army units at Derna rebelling. While Libyan air force
units appear to have dispersed the rebelling army units
yesterday, an additional catalyst is needed to reinforce the
rebellion. Libyan officers are asking for more U.S. strikes
which would preoccupy the Libyan air force, enhancing the
capability of the rebellious army units to march against the
government. Such actions exacerbate the anarchic situation, and,
due to the perceived absence of Qadhafi, presents an internal
dynamic to other Libyans that the regime can be changed. But,
this window will close rapidly as Qadhafi exerts more control.
This control is directly related to the Libyan air force's
ability to dominate the skies.

The maximum option would be a U.S. air strike at Sebha, the
desert retreat for the Libyan leadership. Alternatively, a
strike at Libyan air force units based in Tripoli at Uqbah Bin

██

Evidence that the U.S. is still engaged in Libya in confronting
Qadhafi will fuel the unrest and contribute to the already
demonstrated willingness of Libyan military to rebel.

Military Options

██